

OVAE CONNECTION

NGA Releases Issue Brief on College- and Career-Ready Goals

[Setting Statewide College- and Career-Ready Goals](#), a new [Issue Brief](#) from the [National Governors Association Center for Best Practices](#) was released on Aug. 5, 2010. The brief provides direction to state leaders for working together with officials from school districts, state education agencies, nonprofits and businesses to establish college- and career-ready performance goals using a 5-step process:

1. Select performance indicators;
2. Collect, calculate and report baseline data for the indicators;
3. Set specific, measureable, attainable realistic and timely (SMART) goals;
4. Establish annual or biannual targets to meet the goals; and
5. Publicly report performance on the indicators annually.

[Setting Statewide College- and Career-Ready Goals](#) also details the key minimum performance measures states should collect to check on progress. They are: the percentages of students completing—or on track to complete—a college- and career-ready course of study; demonstrating proficiency on “anchor” assessments; and obtaining college credit or a career certificate in high school; the four-year cohort graduation rate; and the percentage of traditional, first-year students enrolling in remedial coursework at a postsecondary institution.

New OVAE Grant Program on Financial Education

A new OVAE grant program, [Financial Education for College Access and Success](#), was announced last week in the [Federal Register](#). The \$1.7 million program more than doubles the Department of Education’s investment in financial education for Fiscal Year 2010. This grant program will provide one or more states that have education standards for personal finance with funds to develop, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of financial education instructional materials for high school students plus related teacher training for the purpose of making sound financial decisions related especially to obtaining access to and persisting in college. Under this program, only state educational agencies are eligible to apply. The closing date for applications is Sept. 9, 2010. Applicants can register and apply at: <http://e-grants.ed.gov>. For inquiries, please contact Gisela Harkin at gisela.harkin@ed.gov.

OVAE Invites State Dialog on NRS Improvements

Last week in Washington, D.C., OVAE convened representatives from every state and island area to dig deeper into improvements under consideration for the [National Reporting System](#) (NRS), which gathers the Department’s nationwide data for adult education. Proposed changes were based on comments from more than 500 adult educators, researchers, adult students and education groups during 19 [Community Conversations](#) on reauthorization of the [Workforce Investment Act](#) (WIA) that OVAE conducted in states in 2009 through early 2010. WIA governs the grants to states for adult education, which include the collection and submission of data for the NRS. It has not been reauthorized for several years. Last week’s dialogue allowed OVAE to explore strategies that Community Conversations participants had suggested on ways to help states gather, use and report improved NRS data. State representatives met in small groups to discuss implications of state implementation of the specific proposals under consideration. OVAE will analyze these comments, refine the proposals, seek additional state input, publish the proposed changes in the *Federal Register* for public comment and, ultimately, publish new NRS guidance.

Grant Competition Announced for Rigorous CTE Programs of Study

OVAE’s *Promoting Rigorous Career and Technical Education Programs of Study* grant announcement was published in the *Federal Register* on Aug. 6, 2010. It includes the [notice of final priority \(NFP\)](#) requirements and selection criteria plus the [notice inviting applications \(NIA\)](#) for the discretionary grant competition. States are encouraged to file a notice of intent to apply by Aug. 16, 2010. The application deadline is Sept. 7, 2010.

The purpose of the program is to promote and improve state and local development and implementation of CTE programs of study that:

- link secondary and postsecondary education;
- combine academic and CTE in a structured sequence of courses;
- offer students opportunities to earn postsecondary credits for courses taken in high school;
- lead to a postsecondary credential, certificate, or degree; and
- have three full years of data to assess the impact of student participation.

Only applications using the [Electronic Grant Application System \(e-Application\)](#) will be considered under this competition. Applicants must register in order to submit an application. Register soon to view related materials.